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Extension Service - War Food Administration

Reserve

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

County advisory committees formed to help returning servicemen in settling on farms.

States exchange farm labor with each other to meet seasonal needs.

New farm tractor fuel expected to cut repair costs by 50 percent.

More than 16,000 neighborhood leaders in State carry out anti-inflation program.

4-H Club members confident of reaching Feed a Fighter goal.

Farmers grow Easter lily bulbs as profitable new side line.

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CONNECTICUT

August 7, 1944

**Farm labor.** - Placements of farm workers in June totaled 332, exclusive of Jamaicans and Newfoundlanders. July figure, when available, should be much larger, as labor camps are now in full operation and day haul of workers to farms has started. Recruiting for apple picking begins in mid-August. Three camps reserved for apple harvest workers through September will house 130. Many are expected to be office workers using vacation for apple picking. Heaviest labor demand now is for boys and men to work on outdoor tobacco. County farm labor offices are having difficulty in finding enough workers to fill orders.

Connecticut farmers have expressed satisfaction with kind and amount of farm labor they are receiving this summer and are particularly well pleased with high-school girls. Jamaican program is progressing favorably. Of 150 Newfoundlanders who arrived several weeks ago, 110 are still on dairy farm jobs and proving to be good workers. State's 21 farm labor camps for VFV's are now housing about 1,000 boys and girls, majority of whom are working on fruit and vegetable farms. State farm labor office expects no difficulty in getting labor for rest of season except for outdoor tobacco. Other States have given excellent cooperation in supplying tobacco workers; 150 girls from Florida and 250 from Pennsylvania are now working in Connecticut. Tobacco farmers have said that without these girls they could not produce and harvest their crops.

**Home economics.** - Most counties have more food-preservation leaders than year ago. County home demonstration agents report fewer canning demonstrations requested, but indications are that home canning has increased over 1943. Conclusion is that good teaching job was done last year. Canning centers are making spot check to

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determine trend in actual quantity being canned, whether more or less than year ago. Results will indicate where and what additional work will be needed as season progresses. County offices report increase in number of telephone and office calls for information on food preservation in last few weeks. Urban food-preservation assistants, employed in six cities, seem to be meeting need. They give demonstrations, provide information in answer to telephone and office calls, and give technical assistance to community canning centers.

Home demonstration agents are meeting with local groups to plan 1945 programs based on requests and suggestions made. In September county home demonstration agents will meet with State specialists for 3-day training program on special projects.

4-H Clubs. - Connecticut 4-H enrollment this year is nearly 8,000, about same as year ago in spite of farm labor shortage and restricted automobile travel. State 4-H Club leader reports increasing success of Feed a Fighter campaign. Club members in Coventry, whose Feed a Fighter goal is production of enough food to feed Coventry men and women in service, have constantly raised their number as more people have joined armed forces. Goal now is food for 270 persons, and Coventry's 4-H boys and girls are confident it can be attained. Estimated 125,000 hours of 4-H labor will be required, and prospects are that goal will be more than met. From beginning of club year last October 1 to June 1, total of 90,916 hours had been expended. Town is using equivalent of neighborhood system in promoting 4-H work.

This year 150 of Connecticut's 169 towns have 4-H Club work and about 140 will have 4-H exhibits. In addition to local exhibits, four counties will again hold 4-H fairs. State and county 4-H offices have begun work of taking 4,000 feet of 16-millimeter color movie film showing wartime activities of Connecticut's club members. Film will be taken in four units, each telling fairly complete story of work in two neighboring counties. Perhaps most significant development in Connecticut 4-H Club work this year is that more local people are accepting responsibility for club work. Local 4-H committees are now established in 78 towns, 30 more than previous high attainment. At State conference in October county club committees will review 1944 accomplishments and make plans for 1945.

Last June, 3-day local leaders' conference was held at Storrs, attended by about 80 people. About 30 of them were former club members. Conference, first of its kind in State in 20 years, offered 15 hours of work, and certificates for those who completed course. Course will be continued in next 2 years to provide total of 45 hours of instruction.

Farm and Home Day. - Connecticut this year held its farm and home program, first time since 1941, upon request of farmers and farm organizations for information to help them meet wartime production problems. Program, streamlined to meet wartime conditions, lasted 1 instead of usual 3 days.

Secretaries' school. - Two-day conference of county extension office secretaries, to be held at Storrs, is planned for late September.

KENTUCKY  
August 15, 1944

Drought aid. - County agents have been supplied with names and addresses of farmers and dealers in other States having hay to sell in carload quantities. Survey made by Extension Service showed farmers in majority of Kentucky counties will need to ship in hay from other States as result of drought, which has been exceptionally severe in south central part of State. Counties there will have only 15 to 30 percent of hay crop. Counties in central Bluegrass region will have 40 to 50 percent of hay crop; counties in northeastern Kentucky 70 to 80 percent; and Fulton and Hickman Counties, on Mississippi River, 120 to 100 percent respectively.

Intensified program is being carried out in all counties to encourage seeding of fall and winter grazing crops. Culling of inferior animals from herds and flocks also is being encouraged, to help balance stock and feed supplies. Farmers are not being urged to sell foundation stock, but rather to follow long-time sound livestock program. Digging and filling trench silos with corn fodder or stover ensilage is another part of program.

In many Kentucky counties, growing of improved crops, such as hybrid corn, disease-resistant tobacco, Balbo rye, and Thorne wheat, and application of improved practices, are producing good results this year despite intense and prolonged drought. Hybrid corn is about only corn that will make a crop.

Fertilizers. - Farmers are being urged to order their 1945 fertilizers now, and take delivery as promptly as they are available. Many tobacco growers are using  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 ton of fertilizer to the acre, and hundreds of farmers this year got good results from small applications of ammonium nitrate. Small applications of boron to alfalfa brought exceptional results.

Lime. - Figures compiled by college of agriculture indicate Kentucky farmers should be using 1,561,813 tons of lime materials every year. They reached that goal in 1941, but lacked  $\frac{1}{4}$  million tons of reaching it in 1943. Recently organized farmers' cooperative will operate big quarry in western Kentucky. Continued use of limestone and other lime materials is being encouraged throughout State.

Combating inflation. - Kentucky joined with Midwestern States to issue bulletin on farm land inflation. Facts about farm product prices and land values are being placed in hands of farmers throughout State to warn them of possible consequences of paying too much for land. Farmers are being encouraged to pay off debts, rather than go further into debt, and to buy war bonds as means of building up reserves for use during possible periods of low prices.

Summary of extension anti-inflation program shows 16,513 neighborhood leaders helped to take information to 144,524 families in Kentucky. These leaders held 422 meetings to discuss inflation, and county agents held 1,151 community meetings and 123 county meetings. There were 1,099 leader-training meetings, attended by 12,646 leaders. Extension agents made 8,626 visits to leaders before training meetings or as follow-up. Also 200,983 circular letters dealing with inflation were mailed to farm families. News articles published on inflation numbered 455.

4-H Club work. - Because of infantile paralysis epidemic, several 4-H Club wartime conferences in Kentucky were canceled. Those held, however, were exceptionally

well attended. Mrs. Carmen Carmona, director of home economics extension in Venezuela, visited several camps. Kentucky clubs had 1,500 calves on feed earlier in season, but drought has forced sale of several hundred. 4-H Clubs will make usual exhibits of livestock and home products at Kentucky State Fair. Poultry, dairy cattle, sheep and pigs, canned and baked foods, and house furnishings will be exhibited. 4-H Club stock-judging contests will also be held.

Clothing conservation. - Survey of homemakers' clubs in 43 counties indicates at least 15,000 women are making clothes as result of extension work. Women are urged to consider remodeling and repairing and to avoid unnecessary buying of clothing in wartime. Thousands of women have made garments from feed sacks. Keeping sewing machine in good order and short cuts in sewing have been popular projects.

LOUISIANA  
August 1, 1944

Farm labor. - State-wide organization of farm labor program resulted in efficient recruitment of workers for various phases of planting and harvesting according to seasonal requirements. Each parish undertook its own plans under general direction of State supervisors of emergency farm labor. Volunteer labor, obtained through cooperative efforts of communities, civic clubs, chambers of commerce, and church organizations, aided gathering of truck crops and cotton chopping. Preparations are under way for harvest of cotton, and later rice and sugarcane. Workers will be transferred to different areas as needed. Interstate cooperation has been effected between Louisiana and Mississippi planters, who agree to shift labor from one State to other as seasonal need arises. Arrangements have been made for farm workers temporarily employed in industry to be returned for short period to work in harvest fields. Eighth Service Command has allocated 4,000 prisoners of war to be housed in 28 camps in State for work in cotton, rice, and sugarcane harvests.

Farmer cooperatives. - Organization of 25 new farmer cooperatives has been reported. Survey just completed shows over 150 farmer cooperatives in State, including more than 75 purchasing organizations. Aside from purchasing groups, cooperatives cover following phases of agriculture: Sugarcane processing, 7; marketing fruits and vegetables, 23; cotton and cotton products, 7; quick-freezing plants, 5; dairying and dairy products, 6; marketing poultry products, 9; rice, 7; drying plants, 7; oil mills (soybean and tung), 2; wool, 4; rural electrification, 12.

Egg grading and marketing. - State Legislature adopted egg grading and marketing bill sponsored by agricultural extension service and Louisiana Poultry Improvement Association. Measure will enable poultrymen to do what vegetable growers of State are already doing, dispose of products according to grade and receive returns according to quality. Eggs may be labeled as to quality, which will have effect of keeping inferior eggs off market and encouraging production of high-grade eggs. Entire industry is expected to benefit materially.

Improved farm tractor fuel. - New farm tractor fuel, developed by agricultural engineering department of university, was approved by State Legislature at recent session. New fuel will reduce repair costs on farm tractor by estimated 50 percent, and will induce expansion of mechanized farming after end of war. Principle of fuel is based on "slightly lower end point," reducing carbon accumulation in engine and permitting less valve and piston ring trouble. Lower initial boiling point makes for easier starting, quicker warm-up, and less dilution of crankcase oil.

Soil conservation. - Legislature has appropriated \$194,000 for carrying on soil-conservation activities during next 2 years. Expenditure of fund will be under direction of State soil-conservation committee, composed of dean of agriculture of L.S.U., extension director, and experiment station director. Money will be allocated to 16 soil-conservation districts which include about 18 million acres of land.

Extension agents' short course. - Five-day short course for county and home demonstration agents was devoted to study of new and practical developments in agriculture, as they relate to post-war programs. Outlook in cotton, rice, sugarcane, corn hybrids, sweetpotato growing and dehydration, pasture improvement to overcome feed shortages, and importance of long-time nutrition program were discussed by extension specialists and experiment station research workers. Adjustments necessary to provide agricultural employment for returning servicemen were included in intensive studies. "Post-war agriculture offers a challenge to the most efficient effort as well as the clearest thinking of every extension worker," Director Sanders told conference.

Easter Lily Bulb Harvest. - Harvesting lily bulbs, growing industry in South Louisiana, began in mid-July. Yield is expected to bring at least \$40,000 to Terrebonne Parish, where farmers are cultivating bulbs as side line. Demand for bulbs from eastern and northern growers has increased since beginning of war.

PENNSYLVANIA  
August 15, 1944

Assistance to returning servicemen. - All counties are working on designation of local committees to advise returning veterans interested in becoming established in agriculture. Since this is in field of education, committees of county extension associations are willingly assuming responsibility for this advisory support. To help county advisory groups render more effective assistance, questionnaire has been devised for their use in recording all pertinent information about farms for rent or sale.

Emergency farm labor. - Reports from counties to July 29 show 15,089 seasonal placements and 1,521 year-round placements. This is increase of 26 percent in seasonal placements and 128 percent in year-round placements over corresponding date last year. Farm labor program has been especially helpful to cherry growers in Adams and Erie Counties, where crops were record-breaking. In northeast area, help from farm labor camps and farm help transported by bus from Corry and Union City picked 30 to 40 percent of cherry crop. Growers stated that much of cherry crop would not have been harvested without assistance furnished by Extension. To August 1, 32,465 reports on agricultural registrants have been supplied to Selective Service boards.

Extension leadership. - Development of county extension leadership continues to be emphasized. Last three monthly conferences were devoted to discussion on contribution specialists can make toward development of such leadership. At August meeting eight county workers--four men and four women--presented their views on this subject. Mimeographed report and summary of their presentations were distributed to entire extension personnel.

Agronomy. - For some time, extension agronomists have been giving information to farmers on how they might harvest scarce farm seeds, particularly clovers, alfalfa, fescues, and orchard grass, and avoid excessive waste. Yields of 200 to 400 pounds an acre of orchard grass and 50 to 100 pounds an acre of Ladino clover are being reported. Season locally has been very favorable for development of alfalfa seed.

Pressure gage checking. - All county home-economics workers now have access to equipment for checking gages on pressure cookers for homemakers. Interest in this has been keen, and county representatives have checked many gages for accuracy in recent months. Definite information on extent of this added service will be obtained this fall when county workers are helped in summarizing their programs of work for year.